

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 SS-15 AF-10 XMB-02
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13
NEA-11 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
SSO-00 PA-01 H-01 L-03 /117 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/RPE:ANTHONY C. ALBRECHT
EB:RHORMATS
EUR:RDVINE (DRAFT)
NSC:GERB
EUR/WE:MLISSFELT
E:SCANNER
EB/ODF:FNASH
AF:CCUNDIFF
AID/AFR:CWARD

-----011484 092223Z /70

O R 092134Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147390

USOECD, USEEC

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAID, FR, XA

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S INITIATIVE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
AFRICA

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REFS: A) PARIS 17965, B) STATE 95668

1. REQUEST EMBASSY CONVEY FOLLOWING VIEWS OF UNDERSECRETARY
COOPER TO FROMENT-MEURICE.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED BY INDICATIONS AT JUNE 5 ZAIRE MEETING
(REF A) THAT FRENCH PLANNING TO USE JUNE 23-24 EXPERTS

GROUP MEETING FOR DISCUSSION OF ORIGINAL GISCARD PROPOSAL FOR NEW FUND FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA. U.S. EXPERTS AT MEETING WILL ONLY BE PREPARED TO HELP IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT ON PROJECTS AS WE AGREED IN THE COOPER-FROMENT-MAURICE CONVERSATION APRIL 10 (REF B). WE NEED CLARIFICATION IF FRENCH PLANNING TO HAVE MEETING GO BEYOND AGREED PURPOSE.

3. OUR AGREEMENT TO ATTEND EXPERTS' GROUP MEETING WAS BASED ON UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN APRIL CONVERSATIONS. THERE APPEARED THEN TO BE RECOGNITION OF U.S. INABILITY TO JOIN NEW MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION WHICH WOULD POOL FUNDING. SUBSEQUENT US-FRENCH CONTACTS HAVE RE-EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEED FOR DONOR PROGRAMS IN AFRICA BUT THESE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR JUDGMENT THAT A NEW FUND IS NOT NECESSARY AND PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE IN OUR CASE. THERE ALSO APPEARED TO BE AGREEMENT IN APRIL THAT MAJOR WESTERN DONORS TO AFRICA COULD INSTEAD MAKE THE DESIRED POLITICAL IMPACT THROUGH COLLABORATION ON HIGH VISIBILITY PROJECTS ADDRESSED TO AFRICA'S IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE COORDINATED DONOR ACTIONS CAN ACHIEVE HIGH VISIBILITY AND BE IMPLEMENTED QUICKLY THROUGH COLLABORATIVE APPROACH. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE147390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PMCLEAN:CS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780242-0483
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780674/aaaacyi.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 13bfbf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARIS 17965, 78 STATE 95668
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2409309
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARDI'S INITIATIVE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: EAID, FR, XA, US
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13bfbf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014